UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/42
16 January 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 14 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Omar Mustafa Muntasser, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, responding to the announcement by the President of the United States of the extension of the relevant United States emergency law as it affects the freezing of Libyan assets and the economic embargo against Libya.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzed Omar DORDA
Permanent Representative

98-00959 (E) 160198 160198

Annex

Letter dated 14 January 1998 from the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter to the Security Council of 30 June 1997 (S/1997/503, annex) concerning the extension by the President of the United States of the relevant United States emergency law, I have the honour to inform you that on 2 January 1998 he announced a further extension of the said law, first enacted in 1986 to freeze Libyan assets and impose an economic embargo on Libya, on the grounds that Libya represents a danger to the security of the United States of America and that it supports terrorism despite the demands made in the relevant Security Council resolutions that tangible steps must be taken to demonstrate that it has renounced terrorism.

Denying once again the groundless allegations made by the United States and calling your attention to the dangerous character of this attitude on the part of the United States Administration, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would like to state as follows:

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is a State that seeks security and peace. It is interested in developing the country and advancing its people, and it has never endangered international peace and security. How could it do so, when it does not have the technical, material or human resources that would enable it to threaten the security of a major Power such as the United States of America, possessing as it does limitless arsenals of deadly weapons of mass destruction?

2. The charges made by the United States Administration against my country are no more than a reiteration of the United States allegations framed in the context of defaming Libya's good name and disparaging the firm positions taken by the Libyan revolution. They are made in complete disregard of the fact that the Great Jamahiriya has on numerous occasions proclaimed its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. This includes State terrorism, of which Libya was a victim in 1986. (See document S/23672.)

3. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya announced on a number of occasions in the past and stated in letters addressed by it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that it was prepared to receive a commission, a State body or a technical team to ascertain the falsity of the allegations made concerning a connection with terrorism. (See documents S/23917, S/24961 and S/1994/900.)

4. Since the 1980s, the United States of America has been tireless in its pursuit of hostile policies against the Libyan Arab people. These policies reached their peak when F-111 bombers originally designed to attack the former Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact countries committed an act of military aggression of which dozens of innocent people were the victims. It also shelters and trains terrorist groups for aggression against the Libyan Arab people. On 29 November 1993, under the auspices of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., it hosted a seminar on Libya's future

prospects without Qaddafi. This demonstrates clearly the declared intentions and schemes of successive United States Governments against the Libyan Arab people and its leadership.

5. The statement made in the message of the President of the United States to the effect that Libya has not complied with the Security Council resolutions relating to the so-called Lockerbie affair is contrary to the actual situation, and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has complied fully and effectively with these resolutions. This is indicated by the satisfaction the British Foreign Office expressed with the answers provided by Libya to its questions concerning Libya's links with the Irish Republican Army (see document S/1995/973, annex) and by the letter from the French magistrate addressed to his Minister for Foreign Affairs in which he expresses his satisfaction with the way in which the Libyan judicial authorities cooperated with him in carrying out his inquiry (S/1997/858, annex). In the light of these facts, it is the other parties that are persisting in their intransigence and are rejecting all the proposals offered for the conduct of the trial in a neutral country, which is what all the international and regional organizations are urging as a solution that accords with the norms of international law.

6. The extension by the President of the United States of the relevant emergency law demonstrates the extent to which the United States is defying the will of the international community as expressed in General Assembly resolution 51/22 of 27 November 1996, which determines that the use of coercive economic measures as a means of political compulsion is impermissible.

We do not believe that the Security Council, which is entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security and the achievement of peaceful coexistence between States, can ignore the repeated United States claims and allegations against my country without addressing this situation and without endeavouring to forestall the dangers to which it may give rise.

(Signed) Omar Mustafa MUNTASSER
Secretary of the General People's Committee
for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation